

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of:

DEC 23 2003

Livshits  
 Application No.: 09/459,573  
 Filing Date: December 13, 1999  
 For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

Art Unit: 1652  
 Examiner: Ramirez  
 Attorney Ref. No.: US-1270  
 Via Facsimile to: 703.872.9306

**OFFICIAL****PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

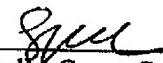
Sir:

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to extend the period for response to the Office Action dated July 25, 2003, which set a three-month shortened statutory period for reply, two month(s) to December 25, 2003.

The period for response has previously been extended to

Attached please find a Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) authorizing payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) of \$420.00 for this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
 Shelly Guest Cermak  
 Registration No. 37,571

**U.S. P.T.O. Customer No. 38108**  
 Ajinomoto USA, Inc.  
 1120 Connecticut Ave.  
 Ste. 1010  
 Washington D.C. 20036  
 202.457.0284  
 Date: December 22, 2003

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420.00 OP